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In re the application of
Yoshihiro FUKANO et al.

U.S. Serial No. 10/717,660

Group Art Unit: 3753

Filing Date: November 21, 2003

Examiner: Kevin L. Lee

Title: TWO-WAY VALVE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR § 1.56, the attached form and document(s) indicate information of which the applicant(s) has/have recently become aware which may be relevant to the above-identified application.

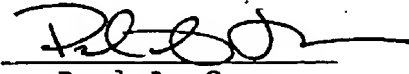
The information is in the form of references that have been cited in a corresponding a First Office Action from the German Patent Office, dated December 2, 2004, as a foreign counterpart application to the present application.

A copy of the German Office Action is enclosed, along with copies of the three foreign references cited therein. Copies of the U.S. citations are not enclosed, as such references are readily available to the Examiner.

The indication that the references have been cited in a foreign counterpart application satisfies the requirement for a concise explanation of relevance. See, MPEP § 609.

The Examiner is requested to indicate consideration of this information by initialing and returning a copy of the Information Disclosure Citation form (PTO-1449) attached herewith.

37 CFR 1.97(e) Statement. Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

Signed, 

Paul A. Guss

Date: February 3, 2005

This information is being submitted after receiving a First Office Action, but before receipt of a Final Office Action on the merits. Hence, in accordance with the 37 CFR § 1.97(e) Statement above, no fees are due. Should it be deemed that any fees are due in connection with this or any accompanying communication, authorization is given to charge such fees to the Attorney's Deposit Account No. 07-2519.

Respectfully submitted,



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PAGE 3/46 * RCVD AT 2/3/2005 6:38:04 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/8 * DNS:8729306 * CSID:7034862720 * DURATION (mm-ss):50-36

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Application Number	10/717,660
Filing Date	November 21, 2003
First Named Inventor	Yoshihiro FUKANO
Art Unit	3753
Examiner Name	Lee, Kevin L
Attorney Docket Number	CS-32-031121

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ¹
		Country Code ² Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY			
		DE 196 11 664 A1	11-14-1996			
		DE 198 11 254 A1	10-22-1998			
		DE 198 11 191 A1	10-22-1998			

Date Considered

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

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